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DIST 14 SEPTEMBER 1966

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COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI JULY 1966

SUBJECT STATEMENTS OF CAPTURED NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVAL OFFICER ON
GOOD TREATMENT OF CAPTURED UNITED STATES PILOTS BY NORTH
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT

ACQ

VIETNAM SAIGON 7 SEPTEMBER 1966

SOURCE

1. (SUMMARY. A CAPTURED NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVAL OFFICER SAID ON 7
SEPTEMBER 1966 THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING THE RULES
OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION TO THE LETTER IN ITS TREATMENT OF DOWNED AMERICAN
PILOTS AS PRISONERS OF WAR, AND THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ARE STILL
GUIDED IN THIS MATTER BY INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY GENERAL VO NGUYEN GIAP IN
THE FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH. CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS ARE
GIVEN ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHELTER, AND RECEIVE A HIGHER CASH FOOD
ALLOWANCE THAN NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY PERSONNEL. THEY ARE GIVEN PROPAGANDA

(Encl 5) (S-47, 601/DO-4H)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 20 AUG 1992

[REDACTED]

MATERIAL TO READ. WOUNDED PRISONERS RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT AS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, AND THE DEAD ARE BURIED IN MARKED GRAVES. THE NAVAL OFFICER SAID THAT THE PILOTS WHO SURRENDER ARE NOT TO BE HARMED, BUT THOSE WHO RESIST ARE TO BE SHOT.)

2. ON 7 SEPTEMBER 1966 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO WAS CAPTURED [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD CAPTURED UNITED STATES PILOTS FOLLOWS TO THE LETTER THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR. INSTRUCTIONS THAT PRISONERS MUST BE TREATED HUMANELY HAVE EXISTED IN NORTH VIETNAM SINCE THE FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH. AT THAT TIME GENERAL VO NGUYEN GIAP ISSUED AN ORDER TO HIS MILITARY FORCES OUTLINING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ARE STILL OBEYING THIS ORDER. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A SIMILAR ORDER TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, AND IT IS STILL IN EXISTENCE. [REDACTED] COMMENT. SOURCE WOULD NOT PROVIDE DETAILS CONCERNING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.)

3. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES ITS UNITED STATES PRISONERS WITH ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER, AND A CASH ALLOWANCE OF SIX DONG FOR FOOD. THIS ALLOWANCE IS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE TWO DONG THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES RECEIVE.

4. WOUNDED PRISONERS RECEIVE THE SAME MEDICAL TREATMENT AS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY WOUNDED.

5. UNITED STATES PILOTS KILLED IN ACTION OVER NORTH VIETNAM ARE BURIED IN MARKED GRAVES FOR POSSIBLE LATER EXHUMATION AND REMOVAL TO THE UNITED STATES. [REDACTED] COMMENT. SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT PERSONALLY OBSERVE THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE THE FRENCH WAR DEAD HAD BEEN HANDLED IN THIS MANNER.)

6. UNITED STATES PILOTS WHO SURRENDER AFTER BEING SHOT DOWN ARE NOT TO BE HARMED. THOSE WHO RESIST ARREST, HOWEVER, ARE TO BE SHOT.

7. UNITED STATES PRISONERS NOW ARE BEING GIVEN PROPAGANDA MATERIAL TO READ. THE PRISONERS CAPTURED AFTER THE FIRST UNITED STATES BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM DID NOT RECEIVE SUCH READING MATERIAL.

8. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE JUSPAO USARV 7TH AIR FORCE USAID 525TH MIG USMACV NAVFORV DIST 50/OSI CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

[REDACTED]

(dissem controls)